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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 19 August 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to wage its bloody military campaign against the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The occupying forces continue to use excessive, indiscriminate and lethal force, killing and injuring scores of innocent Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and causing more damage and destruction.

Yesterday, Wednesday, 18 August 2004, Israel, the occupying Power, attempted to commit yet another extrajudicial execution in grave breach of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law. Helicopter gunships fired missiles at the residence of Ahmed Al-Jabari in the densely populated Shejiyia neighbourhood in Gaza city. While Mr. Al-Jabari survived the attempted extrajudicial execution, five other Palestinian civilians were killed instantly, including Mr. Al-Jabari's 14-year-old son, brother, nephew and son-in-law. In addition, at least a dozen other Palestinian civilians were wounded, some critically.

Furthermore, since Sunday, 15 August 2004, more than 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees being held in Israeli jails have taken part in a massive series of hunger strikes to protest the gross and systematic violations of their rights and the deplorable living conditions under which they are being detained. Palestinian prisoners and detainees suffer from inhuman humanitarian conditions, including arbitrary and indiscriminate beatings, humiliating strip searches, solitary confinement for excessive periods of time, medical negligence and restrictions placed on visitation rights for family members. The above-mentioned treatment and conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees are in clear violation of international law, international humanitarian law as well as human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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Such ongoing Israeli policies and practices, including the perpetuation of extrajudicial executions and the continued human rights violations against the Palestinian people, including those Palestinians being held in Israeli jails, constitute serious violations and grave breaches of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention. Moreover, the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements and the continuation of the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continue to exacerbate the dire situation on the ground and compound the suffering of the Palestinian civilian population. The international community must continue to act to bring an end to all Israeli actions against the Palestinian people and ensure Israel's compliance with international law and with its obligations as an occupying Power.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 196 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. The letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 6 August 2004 (A/ES-10/276-S/2004/630), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of those war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my deepest regret to inform you that, since my letter to you on 6 August 2004, at least 17 more Palestinians, including seven children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 3,179 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Somaia **Barghouti**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 August 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israel occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

(Friday, 6 August 2004 to Thursday, 19 August 2004)

Friday, 6 August 2004 (in addition to the martyrs in the letter of 6 August 2004)

1. Mohammed Othman Balsneh
2. Ahmed Saleh Al-Qeiq (16 years old)

Tuesday, 10 August 2004

1. Salim Omar Al-Koseh (16 years old)

Wednesday, 11 August 2004

1. Saleh Radi Horani (17 years old)

Sunday, 15 August 2004

1. Saef Al-Din Suliman barhoom (14 years old)
2. Jamal Malik Al-Nabulsi

Monday, 16 August 2004

1. Moussa Mansour Abu Hashash
2. Mohammed Suliman Abu Hashash
3. Zaher Ameer Al-Adham
4. Fadi Khalid Dohan
5. Khalid Jamal Al-Astah (10 years old)
6. Majdi Youseef Al-Refai

Wednesday, 18 August 2004

1. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Jabari
2. Burhan Ahmed Al-Jabari (14 years old)
3. Fathi Saed Al-Jabari
4. Saleh Abdel Karim Al-Hayeh
5. Alaa Al-Din Ali Al-Sharif

Thursday, 19 August 2004

1. Ahmed Abdel Fatah Al-Hus (16 years old)

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 3,179.

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Progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

(for the period from 29 April to 13 August 2004)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1543 (2004) of 14 May 2004, in which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) for a period of six months, with a view to subsequently extending the mandate for a further and final period of six months, until 20 May 2005, and reduced its size and revised its tasks in accordance with my recommendations for the Mission's consolidation phase, as outlined in my report of 29 April 2004 (S/2004/333). In paragraph 6 of that resolution, the Council requested me to keep it closely and regularly informed of developments on the ground and of the implementation of the resolution, in particular with regard to progress towards achievement of key tasks of the Mission's mandate, by submitting a report within three months of the date of the adoption of the resolution, and every three months thereafter. The present report reviews the activities of UNMISET since the issuance of my last report, that is, from 29 April, up to 13 August.

II. Political developments

2. The Government of Timor-Leste has taken several important steps towards reaching a critical threshold of self-sufficiency. The Government formally assumed responsibility for internal and external security on 20 May 2004. Several key pieces of legislation establishing legal and institutional frameworks have been adopted, and efforts continued for the promotion of a culture of free political dialogue and resolution of bilateral issues. Notwithstanding administrative and logistical difficulties, voter registration for Timor-Leste's first elections since independence commenced as planned in May. One of the opposition political groupings does not recognize the validity of the voter registration cards; it has nonetheless decided to allow its members to participate in the elections, but its non-recognition of the voter registration cards could present some problem for their participation in the elections. At the same time, pending sufficient national income generation, the development of

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sustainable national institutions will continue to be dependent on international assistance.

3. Progress has been made by the Government ministries, with the support of the international civilian advisers, in the drafting of essential legislation (as set out in the annexes to S/2004/333). The respective roles of the national security institutions were established prior to the transfer of both internal and external security responsibilities from UNMISET to Timor-Leste with the promulgation in May of the organic laws for the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) and the Timorese national defence forces (F-FDTL). To supplement the legislation on the national police, a government decree which provides for the establishment of a police oversight committee that includes members of civil society has been adopted, and a PNTL disciplinary regulation has also been promulgated. To ensure effective implementation of these laws, significant financial and human resources will be required.

4. As regards the justice sector, the law to establish the Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice (provided for under the Constitution) was promulgated in May. The National Parliament, which is in recess from 15 July to 15 September, is to reconvene in a special session on 16 August to consider the three nominees for the position of Provedor. Laws have also been adopted on commercial companies and the status of Members of Parliament. Consideration of the bill on Amnesty and Other Clemency Measures was suspended on 31 May after a series of public hearings that raised serious concerns about several provisions in the bill, including the possibility of commutation of sentences for serious crimes offenders.

5. Progress was also made in formulating a policy on veterans. On 8 June, President Gusmão formally presented to the National Parliament the report of the Veterans Commission, which contains a number of recommendations to the Government, including forms of recognition and material benefits to the veterans. The Parliament has formed an ad hoc committee to study the report and is considering possible legislation on the issue. However, the impatience of veterans for swifter progress was underlined by the decision in June by several veterans groups to form, together with other political groups, an organization to press their demands for quick identification and recognition of veterans and for material benefits. The groups also made political demands related to the composition of the national police and the resignation of certain Government ministers. These demands were the subject of a public demonstration on 19 July, in which about 120 people, most of them veterans, assembled in front of the Government building in Dili. The demonstration continued until it was dispersed the following day by police officers using tear gas. This incident underlines the potential for friction posed by veterans' concerns and the need for swift action by the Government in resolving this matter. At the same time, concern was expressed, by the Prime Minister, among others, about the allegations that some PNTL officers had taken inappropriate actions and used excessive force during the demonstration, highlighting the importance of further training and development of law-enforcement agencies.

6. Meanwhile, the importance of strengthened dialogue between institutions of the State was underlined when 5 of the 11 opposition parties walked out of parliamentary sessions during which the Prime Minister was defending the national budget bill for fiscal year 2004/05 (July 2004-June 2005), in protest of the previous

non-availability of Government ministers to answer questions on the bill and on budget execution during the last fiscal year.

7. In an effort to strengthen its communication and dialogue at the district level, the Government resumed its Open Governance Programme in August. The programme, started by the Prime Minister in February 2003, was halted in January 2004 as a result of heavy rains, combined with competing government programmes such as overseas travels, a donors' conference, the budget process and now voter registration for the upcoming village elections. So far, the Government has visited 10 out of a total of 13 districts. After visits to the three remaining districts, the Government plans to conduct a second round of visits to all the districts.

8. While progress has been made towards laying the legislative framework of the institutions of State, the Government is acutely aware of the continued need to enhance the effectiveness of those institutions in order to sustain stability and improve socio-economic conditions. For this purpose, the Government is vigorously pursuing negotiations with Australia on the maritime boundary between the two countries and on the sharing of petroleum and natural gas resources in the region. The next round of talks is scheduled for September 2004.

9. At the same time, representatives of the Governments of Timor-Leste and Indonesia continue to meet in an effort to delineate the land border between the two countries. During a meeting of the Joint Border Commission in Jakarta on 24 and 25 June, the two sides approved the interim report on the Joint Border Survey conducted earlier, which provided a basis for agreement on approximately 90 per cent of the border. The Foreign Ministers of the two countries met on 30 June and signed a "record of discussion", taking note of the Commission's approval of the draft provisional agreement and stating that this would be submitted to their respective heads of government for further consideration. Further discussions on the border issue are expected in the coming weeks, and it is hoped that this will lead to the final agreement on their land border. In the meantime, the implementation of arrangements to address the needs of the communities on both sides of the border, including the implementation of agreements on the issuance of border passes and the establishment of a transit facility linking Oecussi with the rest of Timor-Leste, is essential.

III. Activities of the United Nations

A. Role of the Mission

10. Since the beginning of its consolidation phase on 20 May 2004, UNMISET has made further progress towards the main objectives of its mandate, while adapting its tasks and reducing its civilian, police and military personnel, consistent with resolution 1543 (2004). On 21 May, Sukehiro Hasegawa succeeded Kamalesh Sharma as my Special Representative.

Programme I
Support for the public administration and justice system of Timor-Leste and for justice in the area of serious crimes

1. Support to the public administration and justice system

11. The capacity and structure of Timor-Leste's public administration continued to make progress during the reporting period. A Timorese national was appointed on 23 July as General Manager of the Banking and Payments Authority. More vacant budgeted positions have been filled by Timorese as a result of continued efforts to recruit new staff, including counterparts of the most critical advisers. The position of Chief Accountant held to date by one of the most critical advisers is scheduled to be taken over by a Timorese early in September. Despite the tangible progress that has been made in a few key positions, there remains the need for the Government to fill several other mid-level management posts. On the whole, the public administration still lacks experienced and skilled personnel, in particular mid-level managers to perform substantive and supervisory functions. Therefore, in a number of key areas, including economic planning and finance, justice and infrastructure, external support remains crucial. The appointment of Timorese counterparts to the civilian advisers, particularly those in institutions such as the Treasury and the Banking and Payments Authority, is imperative if progress is to be made in this area, as is the promulgation of the relevant laws, rules and regulations.

12. The reconfigured group of civilian advisers within UNMISET, as provided for in resolution 1543 (2004), is now largely in place, and mentoring and training of Timorese counterparts continues, including through the development of manuals and training modules. Internationally accepted human rights standards continue to form an integral part of mentoring and training.

13. The justice sector continues to be confronted by a shortage of qualified personnel and limited infrastructure, which has contributed in turn to a continued backlog of cases, detentions on expired warrants, and violations of human rights. The three district courts in Baucau, Suai and Oecussi were still largely non-functional in their respective districts, owing to the unavailability of district court judges and other functionaries of the justice system. While the Suai court functioned regularly in Dili, the Baucau and Oecussi courts operated only occasionally. As a result of these difficulties of access to the formal justice system, parties in the districts often take criminal cases to the traditional justice system for settlement. Women often complain that the traditional justice system is usually male dominated and does not always treat men and women equally.

14. To address these problems, the Council of Coordination of the Justice System, composed of the Minister of Justice, the Prosecutor General, and the President of the Court of Appeal, has been developing new measures with the assistance of UNMISET civilian advisers. Their efforts have achieved positive results, which include the adoption of a decree law on the organization of the Judicial Training Centre, the National Policy on Legal Education, the Official Legal Syllabi for the training of legal officers, judges, prosecutors and public defenders, and the terms of reference for the recruitment of legal staff. Furthermore, the Penal and Civil Codes of Procedure are in the process of being drafted, the organic laws for prosecution services and for public defenders have been submitted to the Council of Ministers

for final approval, and the Penal Code is currently being examined by the National Parliament.

15. The civilian advisers continued to support the capacity-building activities of the justice sector through the provision of manuals, legal materials and directives distributed to all legal officers throughout the national judicial system. During the reporting period, they also assisted in putting the Judicial Training Centre — the only training facility in the country — into operation; in establishing a working group to draft for the Ministry of Justice a policy paper that would outline a comprehensive policy for the justice sector in the coming years; and in introducing standardized, robust information technology systems in the justice sector for case management and tracking.

2. Justice in the area of serious crimes

16. Since my last report to the Council, progress in the prosecution of serious crimes has continued. The Special Panels for serious crimes have completed the trials in five additional cases during the past three months — since their inception, the Panels have rendered a total of 58 verdicts, 55 defendants being convicted of at least one charge and 3 defendants acquitted. Currently, 11 cases with 29 accused persons present in Timor-Leste are being tried by the Special Panels and 137 murders remain under investigation by the Serious Crimes Unit.

17. It is projected that 6 of the 11 currently pending trials will be completed by November 2004. At least one additional case will soon be filed, involving an accused now in custody in Timor-Leste, related to the killing of two United Nations local staff members in Ermera on 31 August 1999, the day of the Popular Consultation.

18. At present, 279 accused persons who have been indicted are believed to be outside Timor-Leste. It is essential that they be brought to justice. To date, approximately 165 arrest warrants have been issued either by investigating judges (60) or by the Special Panels (105). Another 32 arrest warrant requests are now pending decisions by the judges of the Special Panels, including some of the most complicated cases involving accused persons who occupied high-level positions at the time when the offences were committed.

19. The Serious Crimes Unit has drawn up a strategy which aims to complete judicial rulings on requests for arrest warrants by May 2005 for all those indicted but whose cases are not yet before the court. Any new indictments filed will include arrest warrant applications for all accused along with draft orders, in the hope of accelerating the review process. However, as reflected in my April report, the serious crimes process may not be able to fully respond to the desire for justice of those affected by the violence in 1999 within the limited time and resources that remain available.

20. Formal legal processes represent a crucial aspect of efforts to move beyond the violence that occurred in 1999. In this connection, widespread and serious concerns were voiced following a recently announced decision by the Appeals Court in Jakarta overturning four convictions handed down by the Ad Hoc Human Rights Tribunal of Indonesia, and reduced the sentence given in another case. Those responsible for the serious crimes committed in 1999 must be held to account, and it is essential that justice is seen to be done in these cases.

21. With support from UNMISET, the Commission on Reception, Truth and Reconciliation is preparing its final report to be delivered to the President and the National Parliament. The Commission has conducted a series of sectoral stakeholder consultations to assist in the development of recommendations for policy and programmes in the period after the Commission. The consultations included workshops on reconciliation, justice for serious crimes, rights of women, children and minorities, the role of the police and the armed forces, health of survivors of human rights violations, socio-economic rights and the future of the headquarters of the Commission as a human rights centre. Interviews were also conducted with senior political figures of Timor-Leste and senior pro-autonomy figures in Indonesia to assist in preparing the final report.

Programme II
Support to the development of law enforcement in Timor-Leste

22. Since Timor-Leste's full assumption of responsibility for policing on 20 May 2004, the national police has undertaken all operational policing activities in the country. Extensive analysis of PNTL capacities by UMISET police technical advisers on the ground since the commencement of the Mission's consolidation phase, indicates that PNTL has, on the whole, been capable of carrying out its responsibilities as reflected in its ability to conduct normal daily operations and essential planning.

23. The development of the national police force, now comprising 3,020 trained police officers and civilian support staff, has continued to advance during the reporting period. However, PNTL continues to encounter such problems as limited professional skills and experience, and misconduct. Reports continue to be received alleging misconduct by members of PNTL, which include assaults, arbitrary arrest and detention, and ill-treatment during detention. Although corrective measures have been taken, including investigations by an internal police body called the Professional Ethics Office (formerly known as the Professional Standards Unit), more needs to be done to deal with the problem effectively.

24. Within the numbers provided for in resolution 1543 (2004), the UNMISET police component has continued to assist PNTL to develop towards a professional, competent, accountable, impartial and independent police service through mentoring and monitoring, while seeking to coordinate the Mission's efforts with those of other bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes. In an effort to ensure the necessary development of PNTL, beyond the UNMISET mandate, international civilian police have maintained a particular focus on training Timorese trainers. For that purpose, a training needs survey was conducted in June 2004 to ascertain progress made so far and to identify weak areas that require further reinforcement. The result of the survey, in which nearly two thirds of PNTL members participated, were used to prepare a skills development plan according to which UNMISET police will train PNTL trainers at the station level. Those trainers will then conduct training at the sub-station level. The result of the training will be evaluated through test exercises.

25. UNMISET police continued to train PNTL special police units to enhance their skills and capacities during the reporting period. The second phase of training for the Police Reserve Unit, formerly known as the Rapid Deployment Service,

commenced on 21 June 2004 following the arrival of necessary training equipment. A total of 84 PNTL officers are being trained by United Nations police trainers over a nine-week period. A fully trained Police Reserve Unit would be in a position to confront armed criminal gangs in the border districts and other rural areas. Meanwhile, the response of the anti-riot Rapid Intervention Unit to the demonstration in Dili on 19 and 20 July suggests the importance of further training for this particular unit. United Nations police officers deployed in all the border districts are currently co-located with the officers of the Border Patrol Unit to provide additional mentoring and training on matters, such as visa, immigration and asylum law and regulation. United Nations Police also provided training to trainers on the use of long-barrelled weapons following the strict understanding reached between UNMISET and the Government that police would not bear such weapons without proper training, or in public places where they could present a danger to the public if not properly handled.

26. Human rights training forms an integral part of United Nations police training for members of PNTL, particularly for officers of special police units. Training sessions conducted by the UNMISET Human Rights Unit have been focused on the rights of suspects and protection of human rights during the use of force. Efforts have been made to ensure that new standard operating procedures for PNTL and those existing procedures under revision are consistent with international human rights standards.

Programme III
Support for the security and stability of Timor-Leste

27. Since Timor-Leste's formal assumption on 20 May of full responsibility for security, the overall security situation has remained calm and peaceful. However, smuggling, illegal trading and crossing along the border continue to be a cause for concern, as are the kinds of tensions that were suggested by the demonstrations in Dili.

28. A number of measures have been implemented to develop the armed forces of Timor-Leste during the reporting period. The promulgation of the organic law on F-FDTL in May has laid a foundation for the development of a national security policy, which was followed by the issuance by F-FDTL of its first Commander's Preparedness Directive in June, and the force development plan has been prepared. In addition, F-FDTL has commenced work on a defence plan known as "Defence 2020", which aims to provide a vision for its long-term development.

29. Notwithstanding these efforts, the development of the capability of F-FDTL is hampered by a lack of experienced and skilled personnel, proper training and equipment, and a very limited logistical capability for deployment. While two platoons or up to a company are capable of deployment, duration of deployment is dependent on close proximity to a service centre such as Baucau, Dili or Los Palos. Beyond these points, sustained deployment of the forces is dependent on the capacity of local communities and infrastructure for sustenance. Development of F-FDTL will continue to depend on external support through the provision of equipment and training. It is encouraging that a military police unit within F-FDTL has been planned and is expected to be established early in 2005 to enforce discipline within F-FDTL.

30. In accordance with resolution 1543 (2004), the military component of UNMISET has been significantly reduced, from 1,750 to 477 all ranks, and comprises 42 military liaison officers, 310 formed troops and a 125-person International Response Unit. The majority of the personnel is deployed in the western border districts of Bobonaro, Cova Lima and Oecussi, while one platoon of the International Response Unit is deployed in Dili. Since 20 May, the UNMISET security force and the International Response Unit have been in a state of readiness to provide security protection and evacuation support to the military liaison officers and other United Nations personnel. Contingency plans and evacuation procedures have already been drawn up in close coordination with the overall UNMISET security plan. Frequent UNMISET patrols also continue to provide a calming presence in the border areas. In addition, as authorized by my Special Representative, the UNMISET military component is prepared to provide limited support to Timorese agencies or to undertake response operations in exceptional circumstances, as outlined in my report of 29 April.

31. The military component of UNMISET continues to facilitate contacts between the Timorese and Indonesian security forces. The military liaison officers continue to monitor security-related developments along the border. A military liaison arrangement between UNMISET and the Indonesian security forces, which facilitates the activities of the military liaison officers, was signed on 24 June, with effect from 1 July 2004 until 30 June 2005. F-FDTL, PNTL and the Border Patrol Unit have been invited to participate in tactical coordination line meetings between the peacekeeping military component and the Indonesian National Army. The two countries have also made their own efforts through increased bilateral contacts between their respective border security agencies, favouring enhanced relations between the security forces of the two countries. Weekly meetings between the Border Patrol Unit and the Indonesian National Army are now being held to discuss and resolve border incidents, and confidence-building measures such as friendly sports contests have also been organized.

32. The UNMISET military component has also made efforts to foster close collaboration between the Timorese national security forces. Regular meetings with both F-FDTL and PNTL have been held to discuss issues related to security and stability of the country. The joint security agencies meeting, which is held once every two weeks, is attended by the UNMISET Force Commander, the United Nations Senior Police Adviser, the Chief of F-FDTL and the General Commander of PNTL, together with associated staff from those agencies.

33. The UNMISET military component will continue its efforts to contribute to the capacity-building of F-FDTL. However, the Mission's ability to help in this area is limited and can only complement bilateral efforts, which will be critical to the long-term development of F-FDTL.

B. Role of the United Nations system

34. During the reporting period, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, together with the Bretton Woods institutions and development partner countries, continued to assist the efforts of the Government to meet the challenges in its social and economic development. They also assisted in laying the foundation for human security and good governance necessary for the country's long-term development.

35. Despite the continuing growth in agricultural production, Timor-Leste's economy is likely to suffer over the period of the current national development plan (1 July 2002-30 June 2007) from the decline in international presence and a dwindling pace of reconstruction. Real GDP is expected to increase modestly, by 1 per cent in 2004, while the population is expected to grow at about 3 per cent a year. The unemployment rate remains very high, owing to the limited employment opportunities available in both the private and public sectors to absorb a growing labour force. Widespread poverty continues to pose a considerable challenge to the Government.

36. An unexpected increase in tax payments from natural resources exploitation brought higher national revenues for the fiscal year 2003/04 than had been expected. The Government is now considering the possibility of proposing to the National Parliament appropriate budgetary adjustments so as to make use of part of the unspent revenue to fund capital projects, such as roads and other infrastructure rehabilitation. These projects would generate employment while promoting long-term economic growth and social development. The prospects for oil and gas revenues in the next two years remain uncertain, however. Accordingly, during the last development partners meeting in May 2004 the Government appealed for continued donor support to the government budget at existing levels for two more years, until fiscal year 2006/07.

37. The transitional support programme, supported through the World Bank, continues to contribute approximately $30 million to the Government budget for fiscal year 2004/05 in the areas of governance, employment creation, poverty reduction, private sector development and better service delivery in health and education. While the Asian Development Bank continues to support the rehabilitation of physical infrastructure, its primary focus has shifted to meeting the country's long-term development needs, such as capacity-building for local administration and the development of sector investment programmes. The efforts of the International Monetary Fund are focused on strengthening the country's main economic and financial institutions by assisting in drafting key legislation and in the capacity development of the Banking and Payments Authority.

38. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has focused on assisting the Government in the development of public administration and human resources in close cooperation with UNMISET. Beyond the 58 advisers provided to the Timorese administration through UNMISET, UNDP is administering a programme from June 2004 to December 2005 that would provide 102 more advisers. By the end of July, only 33 of the 102 advisers were on board and an additional 7 were under recruitment, largely for lack of the necessary funding. I would encourage bilateral and multilateral partners to increase their contributions to this important programme. UNDP has also assisted the Government in establishing a personnel management information system, which aims to monitor the payment, performance and career planning of the civil servants, a leadership development centre where high-ranking government officials will be trained, and a National Institute of Public Administration. The Government has also continued to implement its Recovery, Employment and Support Programme for Ex-Combatants and Veterans of Timor-Leste (RESPECT), which promotes employment for vulnerable groups.

39. The International Labour Organization has contributed to poverty alleviation through a programme on employment creation and skill development called the Employment and Vocational Training Fund. It has also assisted in the establishment of the country's labour relations mechanisms and their capacity-building. In the health sector, the World Health Organization supported communicable disease control that has resulted in increasing the national capacity to monitor, prevent and control communicable disease. The Government, supported by UNICEF, has conducted a national campaign on HIV/AIDS prevention. The World Food Programme continued providing relief food assistance to the drought- and flood-affected families in the districts.

40. With the assistance of the United Nations Population Fund, Timor-Leste conducted in July its first national census since independence. The data collected by the census will be critical for the planning of the country's social and economic development.

IV. Financial aspects

41. The General Assembly, by its resolution 58/260 B of 18 June 2004, authorized me to enter into commitments in the amount of some $30.5 million for the maintenance of UNMISET for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2004. This authorization has been granted by the Assembly pending review of the full budget of the Mission for the 2004/05 financial period at the main part of its fifty-ninth session.

42. As at 30 July 2004, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNTAET/UNMISET amounted to $101.5 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $2,479.1 million.

V. Observations

43. During the three months since the Security Council's adoption of resolution 1543 (2004), Timor-Leste has made further significant advances towards self-sufficiency. It has adopted additional legislation and has successfully assumed the responsibility for its internal and external security, while its public administration, law enforcement agencies and armed forces have all continued to develop and mature. At the same time, it is clear that much remains to be accomplished during the remaining months of the UNMISET mandate, and that the extent of progress will depend upon joint efforts by Timor-Leste, UNMISET and the international community.

44. The preparations for Timor-Leste's first elections since independence are making significant progress. The adoption of the organic laws for PNTL and F-FDTL and of the law to establish the Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice has reinforced the legal basis and framework for State and government institutions, the promotion of the rule of law and the protection of human rights. However, the relative fragility of relations between the country's nascent institutions became apparent during discussions of the national budget. While the veterans' demonstration in Dili on 19 and 20 July highlighted the tensions that continue to

exist in Timor-Leste, it also revealed the need for further efforts to strengthen the technical skills and professional values of Timorese security agencies. Prudent initiatives taken by the President and the Prime Minister following the incident helped to defuse the tensions. The promotion by the Timorese leadership of a culture of political dialogue, between government institutions and with the general public, remains crucial for the country's progress, economic development and social stability.

45. UNMISET civilian advisers and civilian police advisers are working to enhance the professional skills and performance of their Timorese counterparts, while the Mission's military component continues to support Timor-Leste's management of its security. Progress in these areas will be kept under close assessment, with a view to determining the feasibility of modifying the Mission's size, composition and tasks, including the configuration of its police and military components, as proposed in resolution 1543 (2004).

46. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that, as mentioned in my April report, UNMISET can meet only the most urgent requirements. Complementary bilateral efforts to strengthen Timorese public administration, law enforcement agencies and armed forces are essential for Timorese counterparts to achieve the necessary capability in an orderly and sustainable manner.

47. Building upon the high-level cooperation that has been demonstrated by the respective leaderships of Indonesia and Timor-Leste, the completion of agreement on the countries' common land border can make a crucial contribution to enhancing their bilateral relations. However, while efforts have been made by both sides, progress has not been as rapid and conclusive as had been hoped. I urge the leaders of the two countries to make every effort in the coming months to finalize their agreement on their land border and for the management of the border area. UNMISET, and the United Nations, stand ready to assist their efforts.

48. The serious crimes process in Dili has made significant achievements in prosecuting perpetrators of serious crimes committed in 1999. However, many of the indicted persons are still outside Timor-Leste and have not been brought to justice. I reiterate my previous calls for the full cooperation of Member States to ensure that those responsible for serious crimes do not enjoy impunity.

49. In conclusion, I would like to commend my Special Representative, Sukehiro Hasegawa, and the civilian, military and police components of UNMISET for their dedicated efforts in carrying out the Mission's tasks.

Annex I

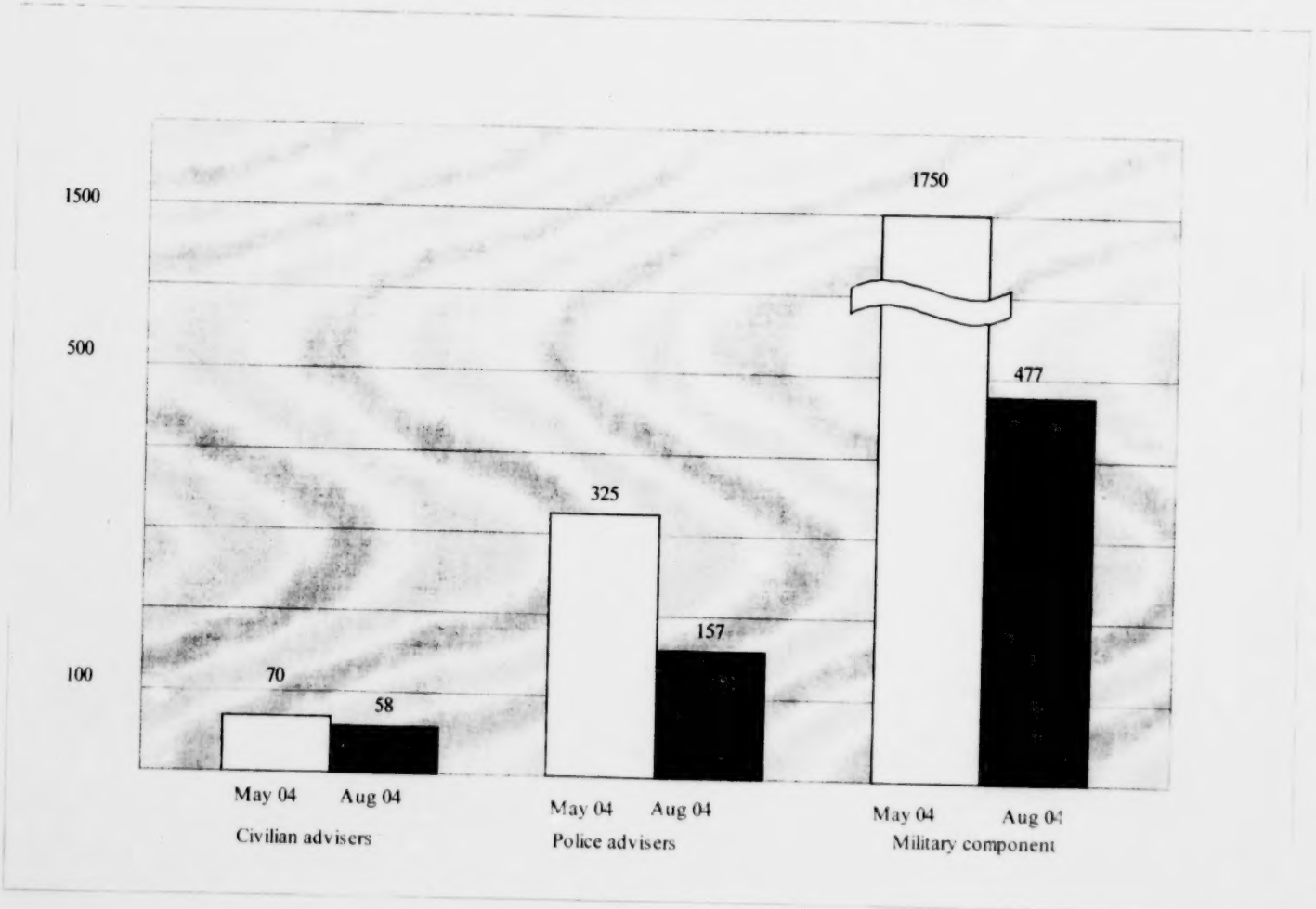
United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor: civilian police and military strength

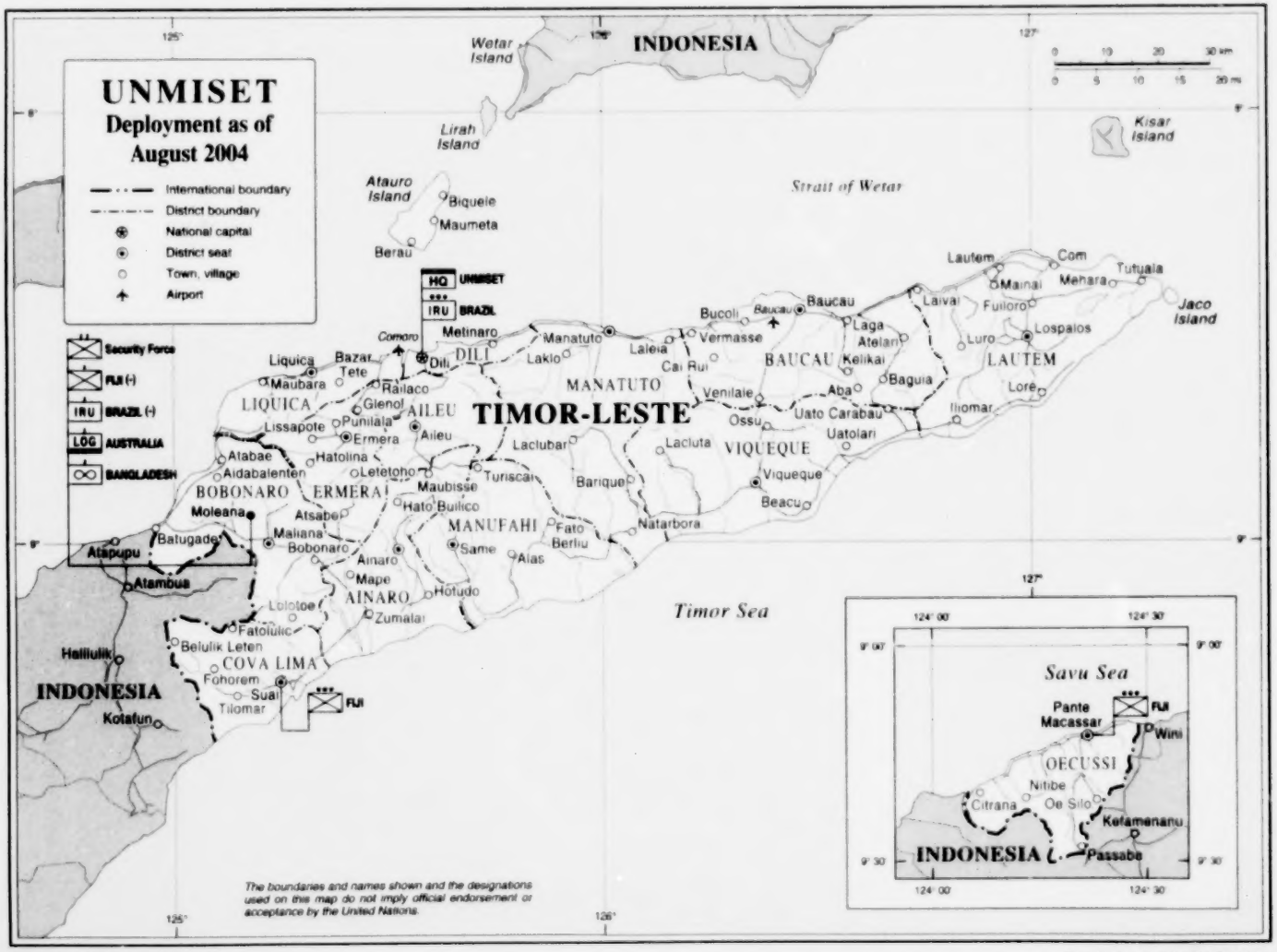
(as at 31 July 2004)

	Civilian police	*Troops*	*Military observers*	*Total*
Argentina	1	-	-	1
Australia	17	93	3	113
Bangladesh	3	34	2	39
Bolivia	-	-	2	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	-	-	2
Brazil	5	135	4	144
China	16	-	-	16
Denmark	-	-	2	2
Fiji	-	135	-	135
Ghana	4	-	-	4
Jordan	-	-	2	2
Malaysia	12	5	6	23
Mozambique	-	-	2	2
Nepal	5	-	2	7
New Zealand	-	1	2	3
Norway	2	-	-	2
Pakistan	4	14	3	21
Philippines	10	-	5	15
Portugal	17	5	5	27
Russian Federation	2	-	2	4
Samoa	4	-	-	4
Spain	5	-	-	5
Sri Lanka	4	-	-	4
Sweden	2	-	1	3
Turkey	6	-	-	6
Ukraine	3	-	-	3
United States of America	9	-	-	9
Zambia	3	-	-	3
Zimbabwe	3	-	-	3
Total	**139**	**422**	**43**	**604**

Annex II

United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor: comparison of strength





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Cartographic Section